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## DEPARTMENT INDEX

(Itemized Index of Articles is printed on Front Cover)

	PAGE
Editorials . . . . .	73
Editorial Comment . . . . .	79
Original Articles . . . . .	81
Lure of Medical History . . . . .	106
Clinical Notes and Case Reports . . . . .	110
Bedside Medicine . . . . .	112
California Medical Association . . . . .	116
C. M. A. Department of Public Relations . . . . .	118
Woman's Auxiliary to C. M. A. . . . .	123
News . . . . .	128
Letters . . . . .	134
Medical Jurisprudence . . . . .	136
Special Articles . . . . .	137
Twenty-five Years Ago; State Examining Board . . . . .	144
Index to Advertisements . . . . .	Adv. p. 8

## EDITORIALS†

### FEDERAL WAGNER BILL, S. 1620: AND ITS BACK-DOOR SUBSTITUTE, HOUSE RESOLUTION, H. R. 6635

**Wagner Health Bill, S. 1620.**—In recent issues of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, the scope and significance of the Wagner Health Bill (S. 1620), have been discussed;\* and in our comment, last month, we wrote:

It has been stated that the Wagner Health Bill will probably not be voted out of committee during the present session of Congress; but that does not mean it will not reappear, with stronger backing than ever, in the succeeding Congress.

\* \* \*

**Senator Wagner's Amendments to H.R. 6635.**—What was forecast at that time has come true, only more quickly than then appeared likely, and not in a new or revised and separately introduced Senate bill at the next Congress, but in one, in the form of what might be called a back-door substitute, in the last days, probably, of the current Congressional session! The sponsor of the new effort was none other than the New York Senator, Robert F. Wagner, himself, author-in-chief of S. 1620, who, through certain amendments to a resolution concerning the Social Security Board, in a bill (H.R. 6635), that originated in the House of Representatives, has progressed well on the way to passage with a "health" measure even more far-reaching than his original and much talked of "Wagner Bill" (S. 1620).

H.R. 6635, the Social Security measure here referred to, having been favorably acted upon by the House of Representatives, at this writing is pending in the Senate (where Senator Wagner introduced his amendments), and now is under consideration by its Finance Committee.

The menace to public health and medical practice interests, as embodied in H.R. 6635, lies in the fact that its "health provisions," or amendments, are a sort of "riders" to a measure of major scope, that may be sent to a Conference Committee of Senators and Representatives, before which, however much otherwise it may be discussed, no hearings might be held on Senator Wagner's attached health amendments! Moreover, since reports of a

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

\* In June issue, on page 447; in July issue, on page 4.